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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-02 H-01 INR-10
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VO-05 CIAE-00 AID-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W
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P 121555Z AUG 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4228
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5884

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/8/86 (FOREBES J) OR-P
TAGS: PINT JM
SUBJECT: JLP ANNOUNCES CANDIDATES AT MASS RALLY

1. (U) SPEAKING BEFORE A JULY 25 MASS RALLY IN MONTEGO BAY OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA PRESENTED THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY'S (JLP) 60 CANDIDATES FOR THE 1980 ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO WAS PRESENT AN ENTHUSIASTICE

CROWD OF 15-20,000 JAMAICANS ATTENDED.

2. THE RALLY WAS TTHE FIRST MAJOR JLP PUBLIC GATHERING SINCE THE NEGINNING OF THE ENUMERATION PROCESSS. SEAGA DENOUNCED THE GOVERNMENT OWNED JAMAICA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (JBC) AS A "SEWER PIT" OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA AND BERATED THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY'S (PNP) RECROD. THE OPPOSITION LEADER BROUGHT THE US INTO THE CAMPAIGN BY SUGGESTING THAT THE PNP'S POLICIES WERE HURTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH AMERICA AND COULD ENDANGER "GREEN CARDS" AND VISAS FOR ALL JAMAICANS. FORMER PRIME MINISTR AND JLP SHADOW CABINET FOREIGN MINISTER, HUGH SHEARER, ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF ABANDONING TRADITIONAL FRIENDS FOR NEW ONES WHO WERE UNABLE TO HELP JAMAICA WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. (C) COMMENT: PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESSMEN COMPRISE THE MAJORITY OF THE 60 JLP ICANDIDATES. SURPRISINGLY FEW HAVE LABOR BACKGROUDS. TWELVE OF THHE THIRTEEN SERVING JLP MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ARE SEEKING REELECTION. FIFTEN OF KTTOTHE CANDIDATES RAN UNSUCCESSFULLY IN 1976. IN SUM, THE JLP HAD FIELDED A RELATIVEY YOUNG, WELL EDUCATED SLATE MANY OF WHOM HAVE PREVIOUS CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE.

4. JBC TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE JLP RALLY WAS LIMITED TO SEAGA'S COMMENTS ON US VISAS. HIS CRITICISIMS OF THE PNP PERFORMANCE AS WELL AS SHEAERS COMMENT WERE IGNORED IN THE GOVERNMEMT CONTROLLED MEDIA.
END COMMENT
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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